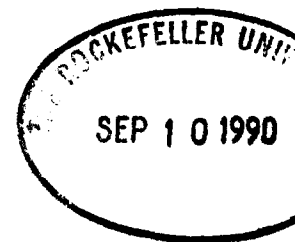


BACTERIAL PHYSIOLOGY UNIT
HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL
25 SHATTUCK STREET
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02115
TELEPHONE: (617) 732-2022

432-1932



Sept. 1, 1990.

Dr. Joshua Lederberg,
Rockefeller Univ.,
York Ave. and 66 St.,
New York, N. Y. 10021

Dear Josh,

I thought you might be interested in the enclosed. I've suggested to the editor that if he wishes he may remove the peroration on the social sciences. The relation of the softer among the social sciences (sociology, political science) to the natural sciences, and to the NAS, is something that has concerned me, but I'm not sure such a brief airing of my views is useful or belongs in this review.

Apart from the review, at the NAS regional meeting in Boston this spring I offered a critique of a couple of reports in which social scientists got the Academy to presume to offer scientific answers to questions, related to affirmative action, to which there are no scientific answers. I believe that the pretense of a scientific approach does harm both by distorting the discussion of serious moral and political problems and by undermining the credibility of the NAS on scientific issues. Anyhow, if you are interested I'll be glad to send you the memo and associated correspondence.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bernard".

Bernard D. Davis

